

## 01-08-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Baptism orients us to live and see differently. We cheapen baptism when we do not open ourselves to its transforming power. Although baptism is typically performed on an individual, all of us who are part of the Christian community commit to journeying with newly baptized people to help them experience and see the Spirit. We also are opening our eyes to seeing things differently on this journey.”

- F. Douglas Powe, Jr



Isaiah 42:1-9 ✝ Matthew 3:13-17

### Questions for Reflection —

- When/how in your life have you heard God's voice and call? What does it mean to you that God claims and loves you as a beloved child? Who or what affirms you in your identity as a beloved child of God? Who or what undermines that identity? What do you need in order to more fully live into that identity?
  
- What does your baptism mean to you? In what ways does your baptism serve as the foundation for your life of discipleship? How does remembering your baptism guide you in following the way of Jesus? In the coming year, how might you live more deeply into your baptismal promises? What does it look like for you to remain open to the transforming power of baptism? How can we as a congregation more fully live and serve as the baptized people of God through our programs and ministries?
  
- What does it mean for us as a congregation to share the bond of the baptismal covenant with one another? How can we best live into the commitment to journey together? In what ways can we further support and encourage one another? To what new ways of being in community with one another might God be calling us? What does it mean for us to be church in the world?

### Daily Household Prayer

Living God, when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan's water you revealed him as your own beloved Child. You anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Jesus as the Christ and Savior now and forever. Amen.